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Appeal

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PD - EUR - 1
March 2, 1962

Subject: Berlin

United States officials will be guided by the following:

International Access Authority for Berlin.

References: President's Interview with Mr. Adzhubei, November 25, 1961

Staff Study Approved by The Secretary, February 16, 1962

A. Task

In his exploratory discussions with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko Ambassador Thompson has presented an outline for a proposal to create an International Access Authority to govern air and road access between West Germany and West Berlin. In consultation with our British, French and German Allies we have agreed to give this proposal selected publicity in an effort to rally world opinion behind it as a reasonable solution to the dangers inherent in the Berlin situation.

B. Proposed Actions

In discussions with appropriate foreign officials, US officers should make the following points:

1. As the President suggested in his interview with Mr. Adzhubei on November 25, 1961 the idea of an International Access Authority would provide a reasonable solution to the problem of access to Berlin. We believe that this could eliminate the dangers in the present situation while taking account of interests of both sides.

2. The one area in the world where extremely grave danger exists of a collision between Soviet and Western Armed forces is in the Berlin access routes should any attempt be made to block access to the city. The suggestion for the Access Authority is intended to eliminate this danger by placing an international authority in control of the routes so that Berlin traffic will be able to move freely without being subject to disruption and harassment for political purposes.

a) What we have in mind would be the establishment by agreement between the United States, Britain, France and the

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Soviet Union of an International Access Authority to govern access between West Germany and West Berlin on the Autobahn and through the air corridors.

b) The Authority would be given control over the Helmstedt-Berlin Autobahn, the Berlin Air Safety Center, airport facilities in West Berlin, and other facilities in West Berlin necessary for free air traffic in the air corridors. It would also govern air traffic in the corridors and in the Berlin air control zone.

c) Such an Authority would also be empowered to appoint officials to carry out its functions; to fix rules governing the use of the transportation and communications facilities under its control; to charge fees to cover the costs of its operations; to construct facilities along the highway; to operate the Berlin Air Safety Center; and to engage in other activities necessary to the carrying out of its functions.

d) Such an arrangement would supplement existing access arrangements. Prior to its coming into effect the Western Allies on the one hand and the USSR on the other would, of course, have to make arrangements to insure that the agreement would be legally effective and binding respectively in West Germany and West Berlin, and in East Germany and East Berlin.

ACTION:

Chiefs of Mission and Senior Departmental Officers

ADDRESSEES:

Department Distribution:

S/S (copies for distribution to S, U, M, G, S/O)

S/P

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IO

All Geographic Bureaus

Embassies:

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USBER BERLIN

USUN

Other Agencies:

USIA

Defense

CIA

White House

AUTHORITY:

EUR, Assistant Secretary Kohler

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